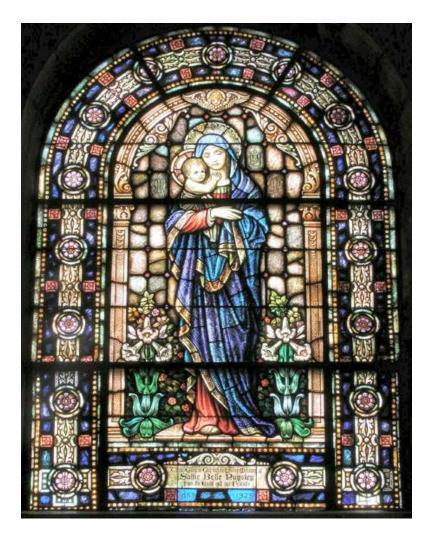
The Nativity of Our Lord 11:00 p.m. December 24, 2025



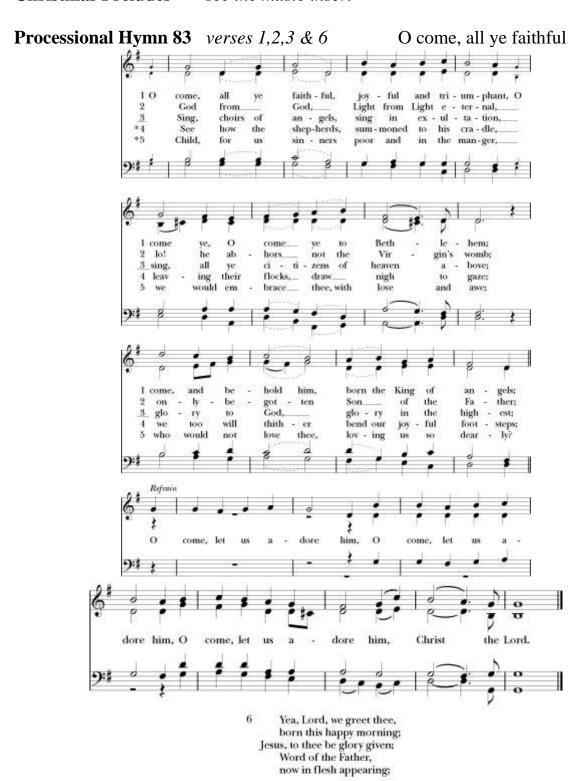
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28788 North Main Street Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, Rector
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, Priest Associate
The Rev. Judith Comer, Priest Associate
Telephones: Church office - [251] 626-2421 FAX 626-2456
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Facebook Page: St. Paul's Eastern Shore

We worship together as we seek God, serve God, and share God with love and acceptance for all.

Christmas Preludes see the music insert



Refrain

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from

you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Gloria [tune: Angels we have heard on high, #96]

Glory be to God on high, to all people, peace on earth!

Angels, shepherds, drawing nigh, join to celebrate his birth.

Gloria in excelcis Deo! Gloria in excelcis Deo!

Jesus Christ, we now declare Lamb of God and Lord of Love.

Grant us mercy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'n above.

Gloria in excelcis Deo! Gloria in excelcis Deo!

Praises to the Holy One, praises sing in highest heav'n:

to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit giv'n.

Gloria in excelcis Deo! Gloria in excelcis Deo!

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

First Lesson

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord, take no rest,

and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Lector The Word of the Lord. *People Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 97 responsively by half verse

Dominus regnavit

1 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad.

- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him * and burns up his enemies on every side.

- 4 His lightnings light up the world; * the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, * and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
 Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, * because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; * you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
 he preserves the lives of his saints
 and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, * and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, * and give thanks to his holy Name.

Second Lesson

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelszohn Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

[In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.]

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson

The Nicene Creed Please stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen*.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Leader Let us pray. Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve

you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader Remembering today our Archbishop Elect, Sarah, our presiding Bishop, Sean; In the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, we pray for our Bishop, Russell, our Rector, Thack, our Priest Associates, Albert and Judith, our Seminarians, Necie, Vivian and Jessica; For the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. From the Anglican Cycle of prayer, pray for the Diocese of Sao Paulo Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. From the Cycle of Prayer for Prisons, pray for the prisoners, the staff and their families at the Escambia County Jails, Brewton, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida. We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the

world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader Have compassion on all oppressed Christians. Pray for all persecuted

people everywhere, and those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested. We pray

also for those who will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week.

Give to the departed, [Especially: _____] eternal rest,

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader We give thanks for the altar flowers given to the glory of God and in

thanksgiving for his son, Jesus Christ. (Please see the Christmas

Memorial Flower Insert.)

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Prayer for the Military

We commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; In your Holy name we pray, Amen.

Prayer for Peace in Ukraine and the World

Heavenly Father, please hear our prayers for all those who have died and will die because of the wars in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. May these untold victims experience that eternal peace that is only found in You. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed will cease, and that a just and enduring peace may be had. Please inspire all world leaders with wisdom, compassion, and decisiveness so they can be instruments of that peace that passes all understanding. We also pray that our world leaders will respect the dignity of all of your creation so that future alliances will be forged on the basis of trust and shared humanity and not on military might and nationalism. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of the heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace All stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Anthem at the Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst

Presentation Acclamation [tune Joy to the World, #100]

Sing praises to our Father God, sing praises to the Son, and praises to the Spirit Blest; Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Let heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heavn'n and nature sing!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

Please stand

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Celebrant Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus: [tune: Good Christian friends, rejoice!, #107]

Sing HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, God of power, God of might, Heav'n and earth are full---, full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest! Blest is he who comes---, in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Please stand or kneel.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: [tune: What Child is this?, #115]

O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away, Have mercy on, Lamb so mild, the Babe, the Son of Mary. This, this is your Body giv'n, your Precious Blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat for we are one in the Babe, the Son of Mary.

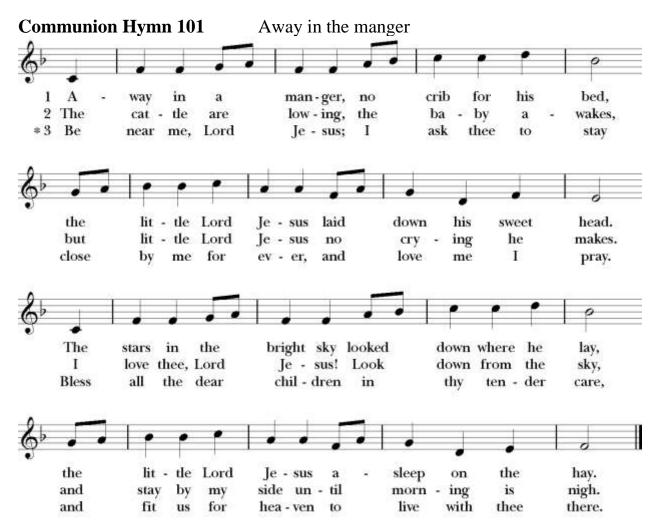
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn 89

It came upon the midnight clear



Words: Edminif H. Sears (1810-1876), all. Music: Casol, Richard Sterrs Willis (1819-1900)



Words: Traditional carol Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright ⊕ by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: Forest Green, English melody, adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All right reserved. Used with permission.

Candles are lit and everyone sings Silent Night.



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.



Words: Basic Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Annock, George Frideric Handel (1683-1759); adopt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Those who serve – December 24, 2025 11:00 pm

Homilist and Celebrant: The Rev. Thack H. Dyson

Altar Guild: Barbara James, Sue Cody, Peggy Connell, Shory Dudley, Mary Dunn, Gaye Wilson, Shelby Wilson

> Lector: Kay Taylor Crucifer: Lee Herrington Server: Mia Stephens

Chalice: Jim Rivers, Janet Norman Torch Bearers: Cooper Dalto, Owen Dalto

Ushers: Tom Walker, Meredith Portman, Doug Stephens Verger: Avos Stickney Vestry: Tom Walker